

City of Newton
Crime Prevention Commission

(Alternatively referred to below as CPC or the Commission)

Minutes of Meeting – Wednesday, June 19, 2013

7:00pm - Newton Police Headquarters, 1321 Washington Street, West Newton, MA 02465.

Active Commissioners Present: Frank Wolpe (Chair), Richard Catrambone, Debra Darcy, Marc Epstein, Bernard Goulding and Fred Winer

Commissioners' Consultants (formerly called Visiting Guests) Present: Margie Kern, Steven Konowitz, Bill Renke, Terry Sauro, Sami O'Reilly and Barbara Wong

Ex-Officio Members Present: NPD Chief Howard Mintz and NPD Lt. Bruce Apotheker

Inactive Members Present: Margie Kagan

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Frank Wolpe, Chair.

We then turned our attention to our featured speaker, Howard L. Mintz, NPD Police Chief, who spoke about the inner workings of the NPD as well as the issues facing the Department looking forward. His approach was informal with an interactive presentation woven with questions and comments. He reported NPD currently staffing level at 132 police officers with 4 new officers to be hired, including one crime prevention officer.

Next, the Commission heard from Emily Kern, a Newton North High School (NNHS) student, who made a presentation of "Boston Strong pins" to the NPD. She had raised money to buy enough pins by selling tickets at school to provide one for every member of the police force. The Commission commended her as an accomplished representative of Newton's young people. A consensus of members present agreed to consider regularly inviting young people from both Newton high schools to future meetings. We might call them "Student/Associate Members of the Crime Prevention Commission."

Since there was not enough time to consider the feasibility of any prospective Newton Buyback and/or Gun Lock Programs, the Chair agreed to bring them up at a future meeting in response to any developing interest in the City. Inasmuch as Newton is a safe suburb with a low crime rate and virtually no gun crime, there is some doubt about whether Newton is an appropriate setting for either program.

In closing, the Chair reported the invitations of Marian T. Ryan, Middlesex County DA and Jeff Sifton, Auxiliary Dep. Chief, to speak at two Fall 2013 CPC meetings. The Chief also offered the NPD Crime Analyst as a future speaker.

On a motion made by the Chair, and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm.